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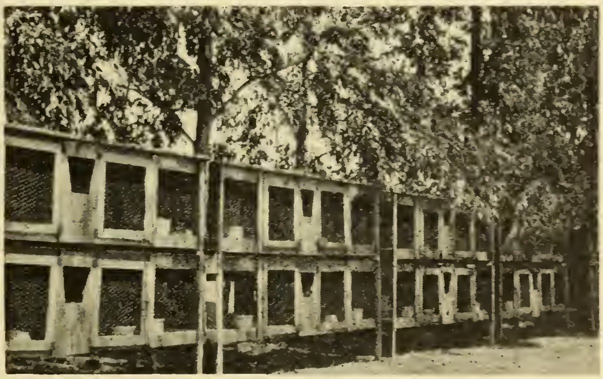
RABBIT-HOUSE CONSTRUCTION



LEAFLET NUMBER 15

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FOR SHELTERING RABBITS and furnishing a place for the doe to kindle her young, rabbit houses, hutches, and nest boxes of various sizes and designs are used in different sections of the country. It is essential that all be so constructed as to exclude moisture and protect the occupants from extremes of heat and cold. These features are particularly important during the breeding and kindling periods, when rabbits are apt to be nervous and when the young can not stand exposure. This leaflet contains working plans and bills of materials for the use of persons who contemplate building rabbit shelters.

Washington, D. C. Issued December, 1927

This leaflet is a joint contribution from the
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RABBIT-HOUSE CONSTRUCTION[1]

Prepared by Bureau of Biological Survey and Bureau of Public Roads
United States Department of Agriculture

Rabbit houses, hutches, and nest boxes require frequent cleaning and spraying to keep them free from vermin and to protect the health of the animals. The construction, therefore, should be as simple as possible, and ample provision should be made for light and fresh air. Both the comfort of the animals and the convenience of the caretaker should be kept in mind when planning construction.

A rabbit house of moderate size—one that will accommodate 500 animals or less—is preferable to a very large one, for rabbits kept in smaller units are less likely to contract disease.

Rabbit hutches should have about 10 or 12 square feet of floor space. The standard hutch is 4 feet long, 30 inches deep, and 24 inches high, inside measurements, although hutches for Flemish Giants are frequently built 5 or 6 feet long. Where there is plenty of room the hutches should be in single tier. To save space they are frequently built two tiers high, but when more tiers are used they are inconvenient to reach and hard to clean, and the animals in them are more difficult to observe. Rabbits are more easily cared for and less likely to become diseased in well-built hutches of the size recommended than in poorly built temporary ones, which become foul and unwholesome unless frequently cleaned and rebedded with straw, leaves, or other absorbent. Self-cleaning hutches require no bedding and are easily kept in good order.

There are three general kinds of self-cleaning hutches: (1) Those with a slat floor and wire sides, the slats made of 2-inch strips of board spaced half an inch apart; (2) those with wire floor and sides, of half-inch-mesh galvanized woven wire; and (3) those with a slanting-board floor and usually with tight board sides, the floors having an open space across the rear near the lower edge. Beneath each floor is a removable galvanized-iron pan about 1 inch deep, designed to catch droppings and prevent the ground underneath from becoming contaminated.

The nest box is the home of the young rabbits and the doe for some time. It should be large enough to prevent crowding, but small enough to keep the occupants warm by their own body heat. The top and bottom should be removable to facilitate cleaning.

The purpose of a colony house is to accommodate one or more litters. The young rabbits are given more opportunity for exercise in colony houses and should grow and develop faster there than when confined in hutches.

Construction details for the rabbit house are shown on page 2, for the hutches on pages 3 and 4, for the rabbit nest box on page 4, and for the colony growing house on page 5. Bills of materials for the various structures are listed on page 6.

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[1] This leaflet is issued to replace blue prints formerly distributed in cooperation between the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Public Roads.

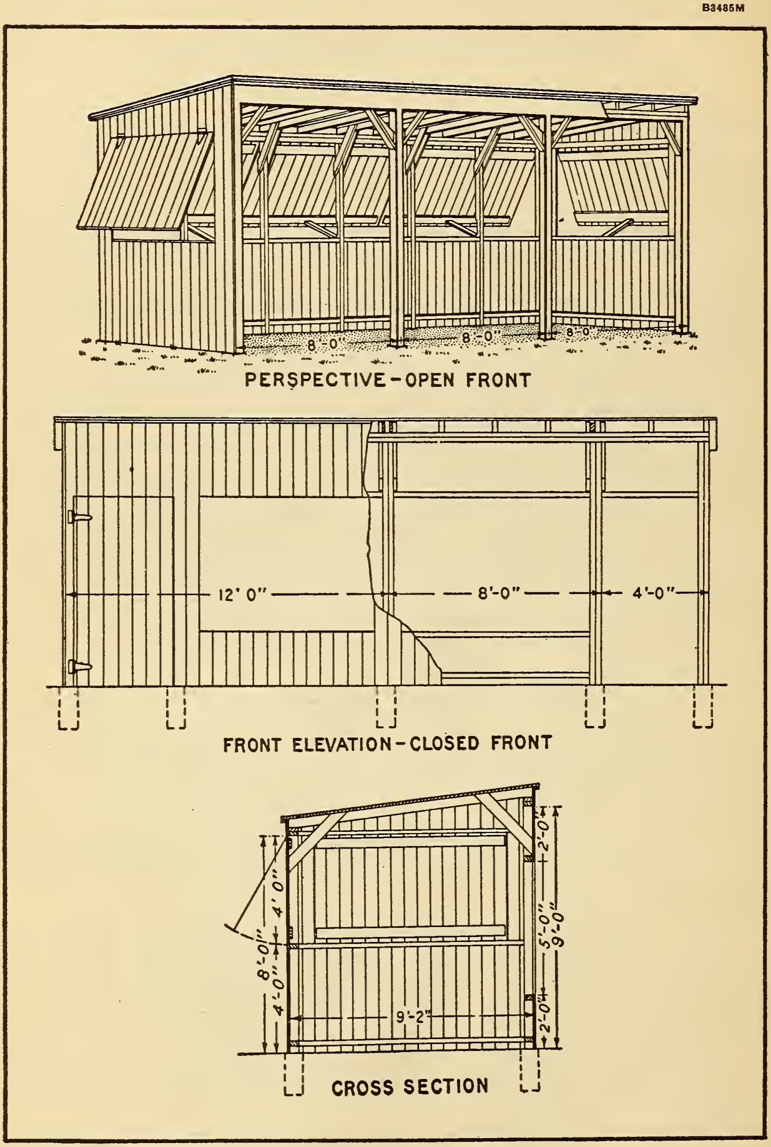

Fig. 1.—Construction details of a rabbit house

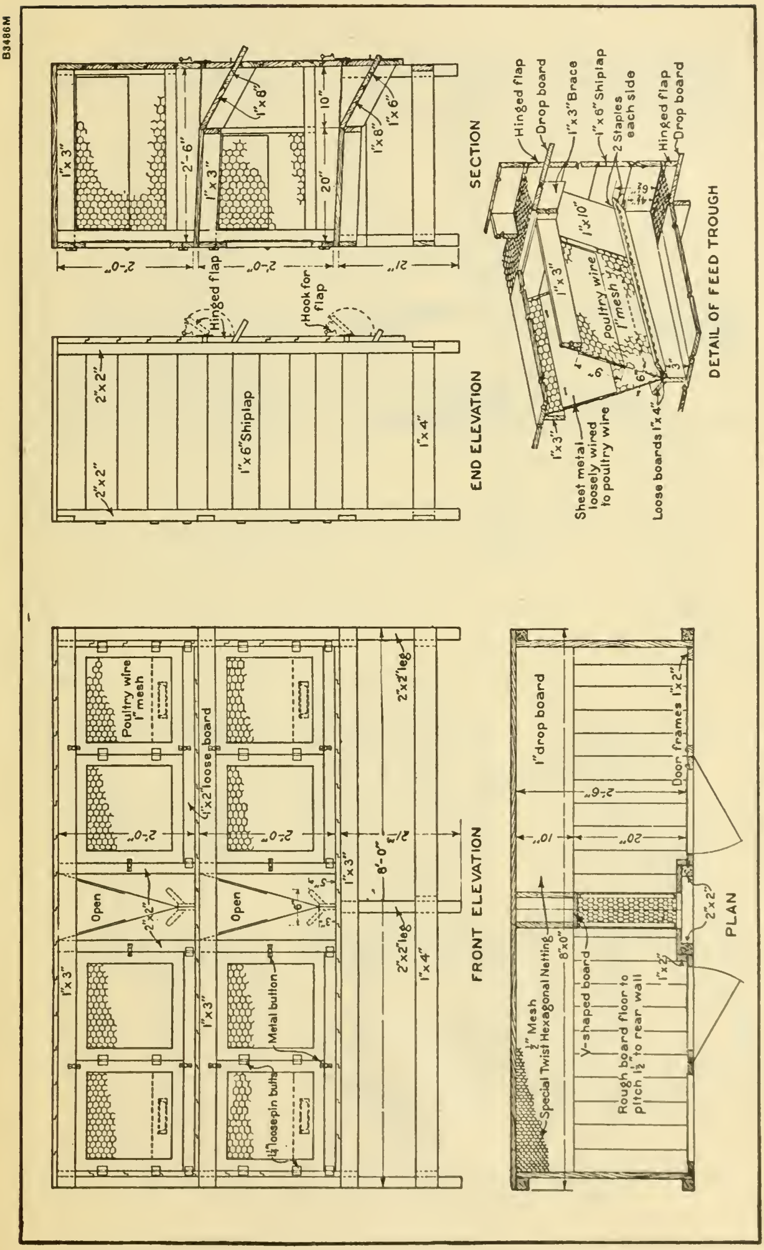

FIG. 2.—Construction details of a rabbit hutch, with slanting-board floor

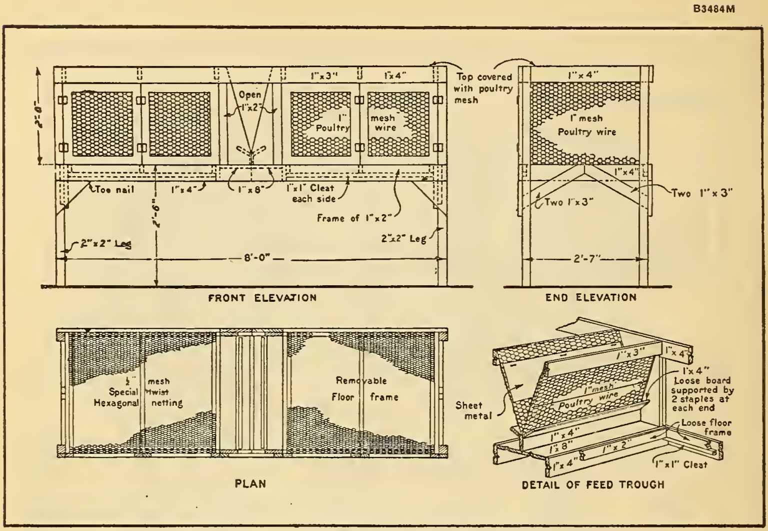

FIG. 3.—Construction details of a rabbit hutch with wire floor

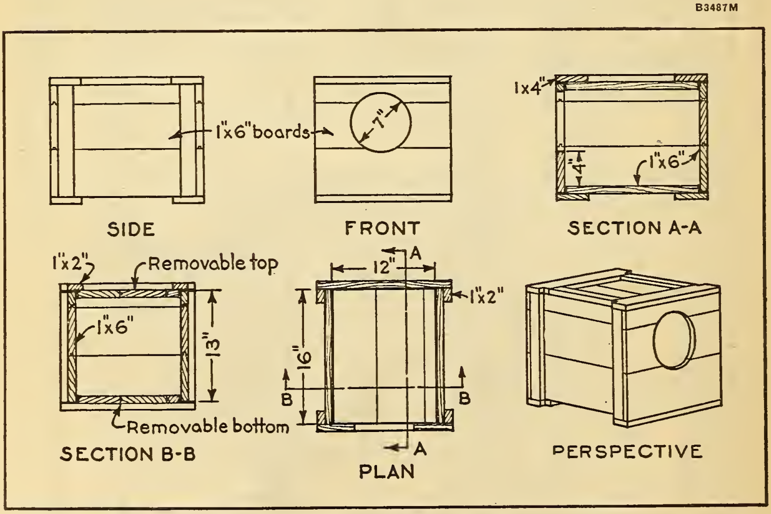

FIG. 4.—Construction details of a rabbit nest box

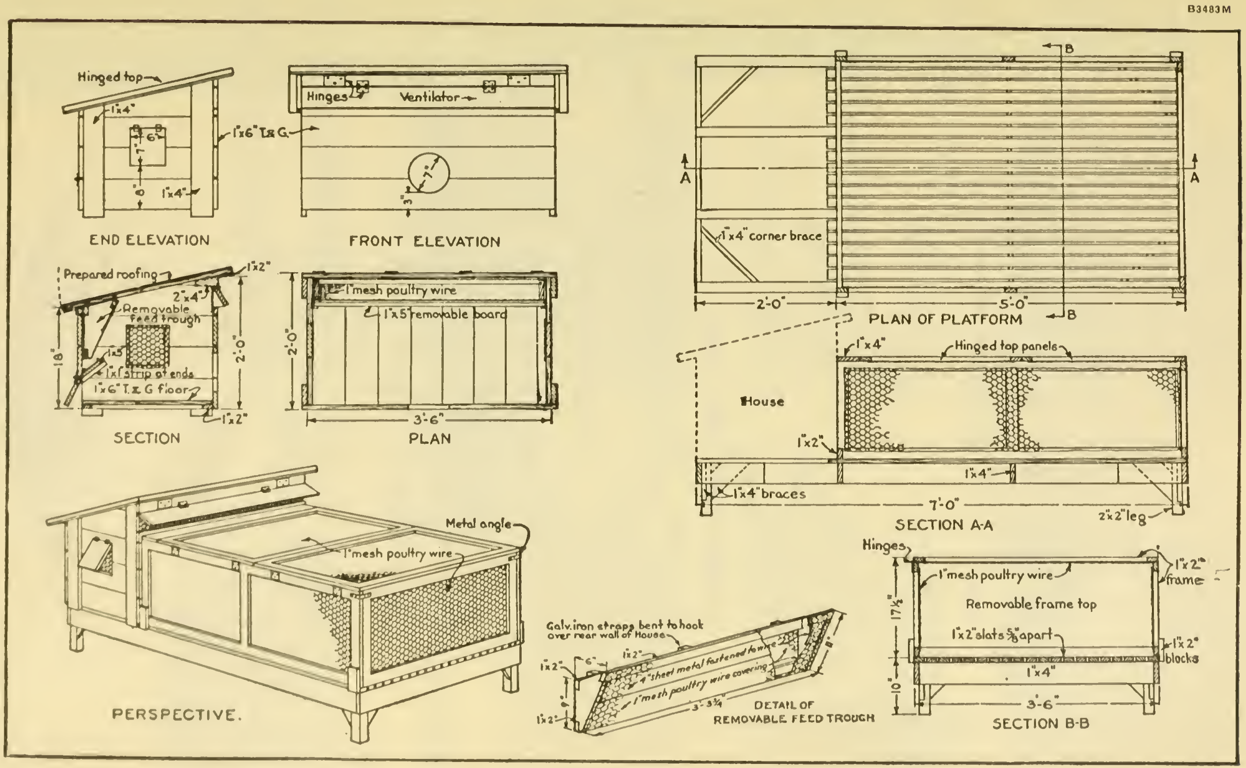

FIG. 5.—Construction details of a colony growing house for rabbits

Bills of Materials

RABBIT HOUSE (FIG. 1)

⅓ cubic yard concrete for post footings.
8 2-inch by 4-inch by 9-foot posts.
9 2-inch by 4-inch by 8-foot posts.
18 2-inch by 4-inch by 8-foot plates and girts.
6 2-inch by 4-inch by 10-foot end girts.
13 2-inch by 4-inch by 10-foot rafters.
14 1-inch by 6-inch by 3-foot braces.
60 1-inch by 6-inch by 8-foot tongued and grooved sheathing (rear).
40 1-inch by 6-inch by 9-foot tongued and grooved sheathing (ends).
2 1-inch by 8-inch by 12-foot rear facia.
280 feet board measure roof sheathing.
70 linear feet 1-inch by 1-inch under edge of roof.
Prepared roofing for 260 square feet area.
6 pairs 6-inch T hinges.

For open-front shelter add the following:

6 2-inch by 4-inch by 3-foot braces.
2 1-inch by 8-inch by 12-foot facia.
14 1-inch by 4-inch by 9-foot post casings.

For closed shelter add the following (omit the three items under open front):

2 2-inch by 4-inch by 9-foot posts.
7 2-inch by 4-inch by 8-foot girts.
20 1-inch by 6-inch by 10-foot tongued and grooved sheathing.
32 1-inch by 6-inch by 5-foot tongued and grooved sheathing.
6 1-inch by 6-inch by 3-foot braces.
2 pairs 6-inch T hinges.

RABBIT HUTCH WITH BOARD FLOOR (FIG. 2)

4 2-inch by 2-inch by 6-foot legs.
6 2-inch by 2-inch by 2-foot legs and front.
2 1-inch by 4-inch by 8-foot rails.
2 1-inch by 4-inch by 2-foot 6-inch rails.
5 1-inch by 3-inch by 8-foot rails.
6 1-inch by 3-inch by 2-foot 6-inch braces.
4 1-inch by 8-inch by 2-foot feed sections.
2 1-inch by 10-inch by 2-foot feed sections.
2 1-inch by 5-inch by 2-foot 6-inch feed troughs.
4 1-inch by 4-inch by 2-foot 6-inch feed troughs.
3 1-inch by 8-inch by 8-foot drop boards.
1 1-inch by 6-inch by 8-foot drop board.
4 1-inch by 2-inch by 3-foot 6-inch loose boards.
9 1-inch by 2-inch by 10-foot door frames.
120 feet board measure 1-inch by 6-inch ship-laps.
16 pairs 1-inch hinges.
12 buttons.
2 hooks.
2 pieces galvanized metal, 9 inches by 2 feet 6 inches.
2 pieces galvanized metal, 9 inches by 20 inches.
2 pieces ½-inch-mesh special-twist hexagonal wire, 12 inches by 8 feet.
8 pieces poultry wire, 1-inch mesh, 18 inches by 18 inches.
1 piece poultry wire, 1-inch mesh, 4 feet by 5 feet.

RABBIT HUTCH WITH WIRE FLOOR (FIG. 3)

4 2-inch by 2-inch by 4-foot 6-inch legs.
4 1-inch by 4-inch by 8-foot rails.
6 1-inch by 4-inch by 2-foot 6-inch cross pieces.
4 1-inch by 3-inch by 2-foot 6-inch cross pieces.
8 1-inch by 3-inch by 1-foot 6-inch braces.
2 1-inch by 10-inch by 1-foot braces.
6 1-inch by 8-inch by 2-foot feed sections.
2 1-inch by 8-inch by 2-foot 6-inch feed sections.
2 1-inch by 2-inch by 2-foot feed sections.
3 1-inch by 4-inch by 2-foot 6-inch feed troughs.
4 1-inch by 1-inch by 3-foot cleats.
16 1-inch by 2-inch by 1-foot 8-inch doors.
6 1-inch by 2-inch by 2-foot 6-inch flooring.
4 1-inch by 2-inch by 3-foot flooring.
6½ linear feet ½-inch-mesh special-twist hexagonal wire, 2 feet 6 inches wide.
2 pieces galvanized metal, 9 feet by 2 feet 6 inches.
4 pairs 1-inch hinges.
4 door fasteners.
6 linear feet 1-inch poultry wire, 18 inches wide.
18 linear feet 1-inch poultry wire, 24 inches wide.
8 linear feet 1-inch poultry wire, 32 inches wide.

RABBIT NEST BOX (FIG. 4)

3 1-inch by 6-inch by 8-foot tongued and grooved sheathing.
1 1-inch by 4-inch by 6-foot batten.
1 1-inch by 2-inch by 8-foot batten.

RABBIT-COLONY GROWING HOUSE (FIG. 5)

For house:

8 1-inch by 6-inch by 12-foot tongued and grooved, for walls, roof, floor, and trough.
1 1-inch by 4-inch by 8-foot batten.
3 1-inch by 2-inch by 12-foot battens and troughs.
1 2-inch by 4-inch by 4-foot piece.
2 3½-inch hinges for roof.
6 2-inch hinges for vent and clean out.
4 1-inch hinges for side vents.
1 4-inch by 3-foot 3¾-inch galvanized sheet metal.
1-inch-mesh poultry wire, 2 feet 6 inches by 4 feet.
Roll roofing, 3 feet by 5 feet.

For platform:

1 2-inch by 2-inch by 4-foot legs.
6 1-inch by 4-inch by 8-foot sides, braces, and ties.
15 1-inch by 2-inch by 12-foot slats for floor and frames.
4 1½-inch hinges.
2 ⅛-inch by ¾-inch by 3-inch strap-iron angles.
15 linear feet 1-inch-mesh poultry wire, 2 feet 6 inches wide.

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